



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
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March 12, 2003

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members
FROM: Craig McLaughlin, Senior Health Policy Manager
RE: 2003 LEGISLATION AND COMMUNICATING WITH THE LEGISLATURE

Background and Summary:

From January 13, the first day of session, to March 5, the final day for policy committees to report out bills in the house of origin, State Board of Health staff actively tracked 32 bills and reviewed dozens more to see if they should be tracked. Eighteen of those bills, addressing 14 policy issues, survived the first cutoff. (See bill-tracking reports attached.)

During this time, the Board sent 25 letters expressing a position or otherwise commenting on bills to various policy committees. Board Member Vickie Ybarra testified on fluoride legislation and Chair Linda Lake presented information on the Genetics Task Force report. Staff testified on food code bills, environmental health bills, and health care financing bills that would impact access to health service. Board staff also met with legislators and legislative staffers to discuss children's environmental health, health disparities, hepatitis C, health care financing, and newborn hearing screening.

All legislative activities were consistent with SBOH Policy 2001-001 as revised by the Board at its December meeting (attached). Activity was tracked on the Board's Bill Watch Web page, which can be found at www.doh.wa.gov/sboh/Billwatch/2003/billwatch.htm (attached).

This agenda item will allow me to discuss the types of legislation that Board staff has been tracking (see attached PowerPoint presentation) and provide time for the Board members to discuss issues related to the Board's process, to revisit and clarify Board positions, and to provide direction to staff about activities during the remainder of session.

Recommended Board Action:

None.

Attachments